

THE  
**FUTURE  
OF  
AMERICA'S  
NATIONAL  
PARKS**

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# Russell Cave National Monument

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



**Site:** RUCA

**Year:** 2007

**Vision Statement**

Russell Cave National Monument tells the story of prehistoric people who lived in the area for perhaps 10,000 years. It tells the story of the development of culture. The earliest cavemen lived here; thousands of years later, the people of the Mississippian Culture also lived here. Each major prehistoric culture left behind artifacts that teach us of lifestyles now gone.

Russell Cave National Monument is a Mission 66 era park with a classic Mission 66 style visitor center and grounds. Our Centennial Vision is to find new and more effective ways to teach modern America about prehistoric America. To develop exhibits and waysides that bring about a better understanding of daily life from thousands of years ago. We will also reach out with educational programs that help schools teach history in a way that is compatible with their curricula, including internet packages that help prepare students prior to visiting the park or prior to a ranger program at their school. We will also explore the idea of a new name that better reflects the purpose and value of the site.

**Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager**

John Bundy

Site: RUCA

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Provide inspiring, safe, and accessible places for people to enjoy - the standard to which all other park systems aspire.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Russell Cave will develop an AV program that will be informative, entertaining and accessible. The story of the prehistoric residents can be told in a way that helps the people of today understand how cultures have developed over time.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: RUCA

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

☒ Restore native habitats by controlling invasive species and reintroducing key plant and animal species.

Invasive species alter the historic landscape at Russell Cave. It is our goal to minimize that negative impact so that visitors may be able to better comprehend the prehistoric landscape.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

☒ Improve the natural resources in parks, as measured by the vital signs developed under the Natural Resource Challenge.

Water quality and cave and karst resources need to be monitored and analyzed according to the Natural Resource Challenge.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: RUCA

ENVIRONMENT

☒ Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The park will continue to implement its environmental management program, including its green purchasing plan.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: RUCA

ENVIRONMENT

☒ Engage partners, communities, and visitors in shared environmental stewardship.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Russell Cave staff will incorporate environmental stewardship messages in their curriculum based programs to school students.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: RUCA

EDUCATION

☒ Cooperate with educators to provide curriculum materials, high-quality programs, and park-based and online learning.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Curriculum based educational programs will be developed. Web based information will be made available to schools so that teachers can prepare their classes prior to the ranger's visit.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: RUCA

EDUCATION

☒ Promote life-long learning to connect generations through park experiences.

☒ Enroll an additional two million children in the Junior Ranger program.

Russell Cave will continue to promote the Junior Ranger Program, teaching our youth why the cave was set aside and instilling a sense of pride not only in Russell Cave but in the National Park Service as a whole.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: RUCA

**EDUCATION**

☒ **Impart to every American a sense of their citizen ownership of their national parks.**

☒ **Increase visitors' satisfaction, understanding, and appreciation of the parks they visit.**

Visitors to Russell Cave will learn about how cultural and natural resources are interrelated and how all early cultures depended upon the surrounding natural resources for their survival. They will also have an opportunity that it is the National Park Service that tells this story for all the people and all generations.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: RUCA

**PROFESSIONALISM**

☒ **Be one of the top 10 places to work in America.**

☒ **Attain the highest employee satisfaction rate of all federal agencies, as measured by Office of Personnel Management surveys.**

Russell Cave will strive to assure that all employees are properly trained in order to handle their jobs. They will also be trained in what are their responsibilities to the organization.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: RUCA

**PROFESSIONALISM**

☒ **Promote a safety and health culture for all employees and visitors.**

☒ **Reduce the number of employee lost-time incidents and serious visitor injuries by 20 percent.**

Park staff will, through proper training and experience, incorporate safety into all of their work practices.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS